

WORD UP! Poetry Slam

Overview:

The Word Up! Poetry Slam, presented by the **City of Sunrise Foundation** in conjunction with the **Write Side Poets**, is a competition that places a dual emphasis on writing and performance. Student poets will have an opportunity to deliver original works that focus on such topics as education, charity and empowerment.

Word Up! is open to students age 14 to 19 who are enrolled in a Broward County high school for the 2010-2011 academic year. Homeschooled students age 14 to 19 who reside in Broward County may also participate.

Key dates and times are as follows:

- **Audition: Thursday, September 30, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.** (Registration deadline: Monday, September 17, at 4:00 p.m.)
- **Word Up! Poetry Slam: Friday, November 5, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.**

The audition and the poetry slam will each take place in the Sunrise Civic Center Theatre (10610 West Oakland Park Boulevard, Sunrise 33351). Admission to the audition is free. Tickets to the Word Up! Poetry Slam are \$10 in advance (available at www.brownpapertickets.com and the Sunrise Civic Center Box Office), or \$15 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the City of Sunrise Foundation and the Write Side Poets.

Both the audition and the final competition will be emceed by Ray "Knowledge" Dominguez, executive director of the Write Side Poets. Ray and his poets have been featured on two seasons of HBO's "Russell Simmons Presents Brave New Voices" – a docu-series that follows teens and their mentors as they prepare for the Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam.

The Audition:

Student poets interested in competing in Word Up! must first participate in an audition to be held on Thursday, September 30, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sunrise Civic Center Theatre. No more than 30 student poets may register to audition. Students will draw numbers to determine their audition slot.

Each student who registers for the audition must submit a typed copy of his/her audition poem - along with a signed Poetry Submission/Permission Form - no later than Monday, September 27, at 4:00 p.m. Only one poem per person will be accepted. The poem must be the student's

City of Sunrise Foundation

10610 West Oakland Park Boulevard • Sunrise, Florida 33351 • 954-747-4661 • www.cityofsunrisefoundation.org

original work. (Any quotes/samples must be attributed.) The poem should reflect one of three Word Up! themes - education, charity or empowerment - or a similarly inspiring topic. The use of profanity is discouraged. Props, costumes, musical instruments and/or recorded music are not permitted.

Each poet will have three minutes (plus a 30-second grace period) to perform one poem. A half point will be deducted from a poet's total score for every ten seconds he/she exceeds the 3:30 time limit. Poems will be judged by a panel and scored based on originality, creativity and delivery. No more than 12 poets will be selected to advance to the Word Up! Poetry Slam on Friday, November 5.

The Workshops:

Students selected to compete in Word Up! must participate in at least two of four free workshops hosted by Ray "Knowledge" Dominguez at the Write Side Poets Café (5464 NW 19th Street, Lauderhill 33313). During these workshops (dates/times to be determined), student poets will receive valuable writing and performance assistance in preparation for Word Up!

The Competition:

Word Up! will be held on Friday, November 5, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Civic Center Theatre. Poets must be prepared to perform four poems: one for each of the competition's three rounds (bouts), and one in the event a tie-breaker (Slam Off) is required. Each poem must be the student's original work. (Any quotes/samples must be attributed.)

Each poem should reflect a Word Up! theme - education, charity or empowerment - or a similarly inspiring topic. The use of profanity is discouraged. Props, costumes, musical instruments and/or recorded music are not permitted.

Each poet will have three minutes (plus a 30-second grace period) to perform each poem. A half point will be deducted from a poet's total score for every ten seconds he/she exceeds the 3:30 time limit. Poems will be judged by a panel and scored based on originality, creativity and delivery. The competition format is as follows:

- After the first bout, no scores will be read. Twelve poets will advance to the second bout.
- After the second bout, scores will be read. Five poets will advance to the third bout.
- After the third bout, no scores will be read. The first-, second- and third-place poets will be announced.

The first-place winner will automatically qualify to compete in the Write Side Poets' "Louder Than Life" Youth Poetry Slam. "Louder Than Life" winners will receive an expenses-paid trip to represent South Florida at the 2011 Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Slam.

Additional prizes (to be determined) will be awarded to the first-, second- and third place finishers at the Word Up! All poets who perform at Word Up! will receive a certificate of participation.

Sponsors:

Word Up! is presented by the City of Sunrise Foundation and the Write Side Poets. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information, please call (954) 747-4662.

City of Sunrise Foundation

10610 West Oakland Park Boulevard • Sunrise, Florida 33351 • 954-747-4661 • www.cityofsunrisefoundation.org

WORD UP! Poetry Slam

Poetry Submission/Permission Form

This completed form must be attached to a typed copy of the student's original poem. See the attached "Overview" for audition information and deadlines.

Name of Student:	
Date of Birth:	Grade (2010-2011):
School:	
School Address:	
Title of Poem:	
Theme:	

Parent/Guardian: Complete the section below if student is **under the age of 18**.

Name of Parent/Guardian:	
Home Address:	
Parent/Guardian Phone Number:	
Parent/Guardian E-Mail Address:	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:

I represent that the information on this form is complete and accurate and that, to the best of my knowledge, the submitted poem is wholly the work of the student named above. I agree that the City of Sunrise Foundation may use and/or publish the attached poem for any purpose in any media (printed or electronic) without compensation.

Student: Complete the section below if you are **age 18 or older**.

Home Address:	
Phone Number:	
E-Mail Address:	
Signature:	Date:

I represent that the information on this form is complete and accurate and that the submitted poem is wholly my work. I agree that the City of Sunrise Foundation may use and/or publish the attached poem for any purpose in any media (printed or electronic) without compensation.

If you have questions regarding this form or the registration process, please call (954) 747-4662.

City of Sunrise Foundation

10610 West Oakland Park Boulevard • Sunrise, Florida 33351 • 954-747-4661 • www.cityofsunrisefoundation.org